



Department for

**Communities**

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# Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland

Annual report



Headline findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2015/16



Northern Ireland  
**Statistics &  
Research**  
Agency

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## Contents

	Page
Key findings	3
Appendix 1: Data Tables	7
Appendix 2: Technical notes	9

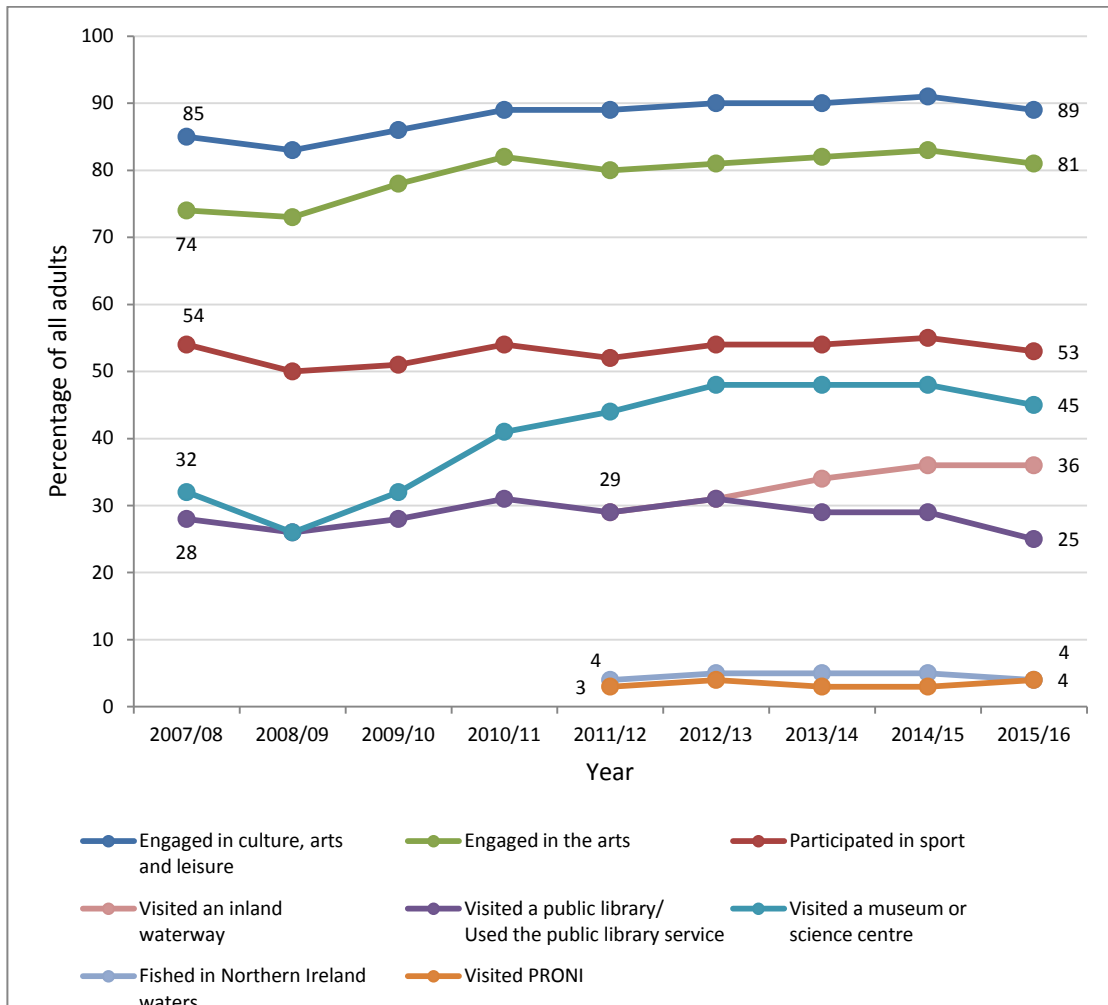
This report provides headline figures on engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland. More detail on each of the areas covered by the survey will be provided in area-specific reports.

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## Key findings

### Culture, arts and leisure<sup>1</sup>



- In 2015/16, almost nine out of every ten adults (89%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts and leisure. This was similar to the engagement rate in 2014/15 and to comparable engagement rates since 2011/12.
- Within the overall engagement rates, there has been a slight decline in 2015/16 in the proportion of adults engaging in the arts; visiting a museum; and using the public library service.

<sup>1</sup> Engagement with culture, arts and leisure will be revised in future years to exclude visits to inland waterways and fishing in Northern Ireland waters. In May 2016, responsibility for these policy areas moved to DfI and DAERA respectively.

## **Sport**

- In 2015/16, more than half of adults in Northern Ireland (53%) had participated in sport and physical activity within the last 12 months, a similar figure to 2014/15 (55%). A target was set in the strategic document Sport Matters, to halt the decline in sports participation by 2013. This was achieved in 2013 and has been maintained in the following two years.
- In 2015/16 around half of adults (47%) normally participated in sport and physical activity on at least one day a week. This figure was similar to the previous year, 2014/15 (49%).
- More than a fifth of adults (21%) were members of a sports club in 2015/16, which is also similar to the previous year, 23% in 2014/15.
- Over the time period from 2007/08, sport participation by adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland initially decreased before returning to 46% in 2015/16. Sport participation by adults living in the least deprived areas has remained relatively static over the same time period at around 65%.

## **Arts**

- In 2015/16, just over eight in every ten adults (81%) had engaged with the arts within the previous year. This represents a slight decline on the 2014/15 engagement rate of 83%. This follows a period of steady growth in arts engagement from 74% in 2007/08.
- Just under a third of adults (32%) participated in arts activities within the last 12 months, while around eight out of every ten adults (78%) had attended an arts event. As with overall engagement rates, participation and attendance rates were slightly down on 2014/15 levels but remained above the rates from the beginning of the time series.
- Looking at arts engagement by adults living in the most and least deprived areas of Northern Ireland, the analysis shows that engagement rates have increased, over the long term, for each group.

## Libraries

- In 2015/16, a quarter of adults (25%) had used the public library service at least once within the last 12 months. This represents a fall from the 2014/15 figure (29%) and also from the earliest comparable figure of 31% in 2012/13.
- Use of the public library service among adults living in the least deprived areas was lower in 2015/16 than it was in 2012/13. For adults living in the most deprived areas, the proportions using the public library service were similar in 2015/16 and 2012/13. Overall, there is not a significant difference in rates of public library usage between adults living in the most or least deprived areas of Northern Ireland.

## Museums

- In 2015/16, 45% of adults had visited a museum or science centre within the last 12 months. Around a third of adults (32%) had visited a National Museum. Both figures had decreased when compared with 2014/15 (48% and 35%, respectively).
- Whilst trend data are available back to 2007/08, it should be noted that these figures are affected by the closure of the Ulster Museum between October 2006 and October 2009. It is, therefore, more appropriate to make comparisons from 2010/11 onwards. Overall, the proportion of adults visiting a museum or science centre generally increased between 2010/11 and 2014/15 before falling in 2015/16.
- Adults who live in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to have visited any museum or science centre and a National Museum than adults living in the least deprived areas. There has not been a significant change over the 2010/11-2015/16 time period in the proportions of adults who live in the most deprived areas or adults who live in the least deprived areas, visiting a museum or science centre.

## **PRONI**

- In 2015/16, four per cent of adults had visited PRONI within the last 12 months, similar to the 2014/15 and 2011/12 figures (both 3%).
- There was no difference in the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas who had visited PRONI and those living in the least deprived areas.

## **Angling and inland waterways**

- In 2015/16, almost one in every twenty adults (4%) had fished in Northern Ireland waters where a DCAL (as was during this time period) or Loughs Agency licence or permit was required. There was no change in this figure when compared with either 2014/15 or when the question was first asked in 2011/12.
- More than a third of adults (36%) had visited an inland waterway in Northern Ireland within the last 12 months. This figure was also unchanged when compared with 2014/15, however, there has been an increase compared to 2011/12 (29%).
- There was no difference in the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas who had fished and those living in the least deprived areas. However, adults living in the most deprived areas were less likely to have visited an inland waterway than those living in the least deprived areas.

## Appendix 1 Data tables

**Table 1 Engagement<sup>1</sup> in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland, 2014/15-2015/16**

Culture, arts and leisure	Adults				Significant difference
	2014/15		2015/16		
	%	Base	%	Base	
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure	91	3,347	89	3,283	-
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure excluding fishing and visits to inland waterways <sup>2</sup>	90	3,347	88	3,285	↓
Engaged in culture and arts <sup>3</sup>	87	3,343	85	3,285	↓
<b>Sport</b>					
Sport participation	55	3,348	53	3,286	-
Normally participates in sport or physical activity at least one day per week <sup>4</sup>	49	3,349	47	3,286	-
Member of a sports club	23	3,349	21	3,286	-
<b>Arts</b>					
Arts engagement	83	3,345	81	3,286	↓
Arts participation	35	3,346	32	3,286	↓
Arts attendance	80	3,347	78	3,286	↓
<b>Libraries</b>					
Used the public library service	29	3,348	25	3,284	↓
Satisfaction of library users with public library provision	89	965	89	806	-
<b>Museums</b>					
Visited a museum or science centre	48	3,337	45	3,283	↓
Visited a National Museum	35	3,347	32	3,285	↓
<b>PRONI</b>					
Visited PRONI	3	3,346	4	3,285	-
<b>Angling</b>					
Fished in Northern Ireland waters <sup>5</sup>	5	3,346	4	3,285	-
<b>Inland waterways</b>					
Visited an inland waterway <sup>5</sup>	36	3,344	36	3,283	-

**Source:** Continuous Household Survey

<sup>1</sup> Data presented relates to participation, attendance and visits in the last 12 months unless otherwise stated.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for engagement in culture, arts and leisure will be revised from 2016/17 to exclude fishing in Northern Ireland waters and visiting an inland waterway as these areas are not the responsibility of the Department for Communities.

<sup>3</sup> Engagement with culture and arts includes engagement with the arts, used the public library service, visits to museums and visits to PRONI.

<sup>4</sup> Participation at least one day per week excludes those who had walked for recreation only.

<sup>5</sup> In May 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs became responsible for Inland Fisheries and the Department for Infrastructure became responsible for Inland Waterways.

**Table 2 Engagement<sup>1</sup> in culture, arts and leisure by adults living in the most and least deprived areas, 2015/16**

Culture, arts and leisure	Adults				Significant difference
	Living in most deprived areas		Living in least deprived areas		
	%	Base	%	Base	
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure <sup>2</sup>	84	662	94	606	Significant
Engaged in culture, arts and leisure excluding fishing and visits to inland waterways <sup>2</sup>	82	663	93	607	Significant
Engaged in culture and arts <sup>3</sup>	79	663	90	607	Significant
<b>Sport</b>					
Sport participation	46	663	64	607	Significant
Normally participates in sport or physical activity at least one day per week <sup>4</sup>	40	663	57	607	Significant
Member of a sports club	16	663	28	607	Significant
<b>Arts</b>					
Arts engagement	75	663	88	607	Significant
Arts participation	26	663	36	607	Significant
Arts attendance	71	663	85	607	Significant
<b>Libraries</b>					
Used the public library service	26	663	29	607	Not significant
Satisfaction of library users with public library provision	88	162	87	175	Not significant
<b>Museums</b>					
Visited a museum or science centre	32	663	59	606	Significant
Visited a National Museum	23	663	47	607	Significant
<b>PRONI</b>					
Visited PRONI	5	662	4	607	Not significant
<b>Angling</b>					
Fished in Northern Ireland waters <sup>5</sup>	5	662	4	607	Not significant
<b>Inland waterways</b>					
Visited an inland waterway <sup>5</sup>	24	661	49	606	Significant

**Source:** Continuous Household Survey

<sup>1</sup> Data presented relates to participation, attendance and visits in the last 12 months unless otherwise stated.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for engagement in culture, arts and leisure will be revised from 2016/17 to exclude fishing in Northern Ireland waters and visiting an inland waterway as these areas are not the responsibility of the Department for Communities.

<sup>3</sup> Engagement with culture and arts includes engagement with the arts, used the public library service, visits to museums and visits to PRONI.

<sup>4</sup> Participation at least one day per week excludes those who had walked for recreation only.

<sup>5</sup> In May 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs became responsible for Inland Fisheries and the Department for Infrastructure became responsible for Inland Waterways.



## **Appendix 2                      Technical notes**

### **Continuous Household Survey**

The Continuous Household Survey is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey in 2015/16 consisted of a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected from the Land and Property Service's list of private addresses. The findings reported for 2015/16 are based on 3,286 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the culture, arts and leisure modules of the survey.

### **Weighting the Continuous Household Survey (CHS)**

Analysis of the culture, arts and leisure modules of the CHS have been weighted for non-response. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2014<sup>2</sup> (NISRA). As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the culture, arts and leisure modules of CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex

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<sup>2</sup> [Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2014](#)

biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

## Definitions

**Engaged in culture, arts and leisure** - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Participated in sport
- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre
- Visited PRONI
- Fished in Northern Ireland waters
- Visited an inland waterway

**Sport participation** - Participated in at least one of the following activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Rugby Union or league
- American football
- Football indoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Football outdoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Gaelic football
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Cricket
- Hockey (EXCLUDE ICE, ROLLER OR STREET HOCKEY)
- Netball
- Tennis
- Badminton
- Squash
- Basketball
- Table tennis
- Track and field athletics
- Jogging
- Cycling for recreation
- Indoor bowls
- Outdoor (lawn) bowls
- Tenpin bowling
- Swimming or diving
- Angling/fishing
- Yachting or dinghy sailing
- Canoeing
- Windsurfing/boardsailing
- Keepfit, aerobics, yoga, dance exercise
- Martial Arts (INCLUDE SELF DEFENCE)
- Weight training\lifting\body building
- Gymnastics
- Snooker, pool, billiards
- Ice skating (IF ROLLER EXCLUDE)
- Darts
- Golf, pitch and putt, putting (EXCLUDE CRAZY/MINIATURE GOLF)
- Skiing
- Horse riding (EXCLUDE POLO)
- Motor sports
- Shooting
- Boxing
- Other

**Member of a sports club** – Member of a sports club or organisation.

**Arts engagement** – Either participated in arts activities or attended arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

**Arts participation** – Participated in at least one of the following arts activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ballet
- Other dance (not for fitness)
- Sang to an audience or rehearsed for a performance (not karaoke)
- Played a musical instrument to an audience or rehearse for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Written music
- Rehearsed or performed in play/drama
- Rehearsed or performed in opera/opera
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
- Photography as an artistic activity (not family or holiday snaps)
- Made films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday)
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making
- Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making
- Written any stories or plays
- Written any poetry

**Arts attendance** – Attended at least one of the following arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture
- Craft exhibition (not a crafts market)
- Event connected with books or writing (such as poetry reading or storytelling)
- Circus
- Carnival
- An arts festival
- A community festival
- Play or drama
- Other theatre performance (such as a musical or pantomime)
- Opera/operetta
- Classical music performance
- Rock or pop music performance
- Jazz performance
- Folk, or traditional or world music performance
- Other live music event
- Ballet
- An Irish dance performance
- Other dance event
- A museum

**Used the public library service** – Used the public library service at least once in the 12 months prior to the CHS, e.g. visited a public library or mobile library; used the Libraries NI website; attended a library event outside a library. Public library does NOT include school, college, or university libraries. A library event outside a library is an event run by Libraries NI which has taken place in a venue other than a library.

**Visited a museum or science centre** – Visited one of the following museums or science centres in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park
- W5, Odyssey Centre
- Armagh County Museum
- Andrew Jackson & US Rangers Centre
- Ardress House
- Argory
- Armagh Planetarium
- Armagh Public Library
- Ballycastle Museum
- Ballymoney Museum
- Barn Museum
- Carrickfergus Museum
- Castle Ward
- Coleraine Museum
- Craigavon Museum
- Down County Museum
- Downpatrick & County Down Railway Museum
- FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio
- Fermanagh County Museum
- Flame - the Gasworks Museum of Ireland
- Florencecourt

- Green Lane Museum
- Hezlett House
- Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum
- Larne Museum
- Mid Antrim Museum, The Braid
- Milford House Museum
- Mount Stewart
- Naughton Gallery, Queen's University
- Newry & Mourne Museum
- North Down Museum
- Police Museum
- Railway Preservation Society of Ireland
- Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum
- Royal Ulster Rifles Museum
- Sentry Hill House
- Somme Heritage Centre
- Springhill
- Strabane District Council Museum Service
- The Inniskillings Museum
- The Northern Ireland War Memorial
- Tower Museum
- Some other museum not mentioned

**Visited a National Museum** – Visited one of the following museums in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park

**Visited PRONI** – Have been to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

**Fished in Northern Ireland waters** – Taken part in angling in Northern Ireland on any waters where a permit was required in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

**Visited an inland waterway** – Have been to any of Northern Ireland's inland waterways (rivers, lakes, canal towpaths, etc.) for sport, leisure or recreation in the 12 months prior to the CHS. Examples of inland waterways include The Lakelands, Lagan Towpath, Lough Neagh. Excludes places like Bangor Marina.

**Deprivation** – The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived areas. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010<sup>3</sup> which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

### **Statistical significance in this report**

Any statements regarding differences between years or the most and least deprived areas are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

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<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2010

## **Other notes**

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.